

Appl. No. 10/773,371  
SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT is being filed as a result of the telephone interviews with the Examiner concerning the nature and scope of the invention being claimed. During the telephone interview on May 11, 2006, the following was discussed:

1. In claims 17 and 18, the use of the term "additive" in step (c) appears to be without limit to the meaning of the term. The Examiner suggested that even the use of ink might meet the incorporation requirement, at least in claim 17, of a solution containing an additive after completion of the constant drying rate. Although it was suggested that, at least in claim 18, the timing of the incorporation might preclude the normal use of ink, it was agreed that the issue would be moot (or at least greatly reduced) if the term "additive" is further limited with a Markush group of various possibilities. The Examiner requested that this SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT be filed to provide applicant's proposal in this respect, for review, especially with respect to any further considerations of the art by the Examiner.

Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to introduce a number of possibilities for the additive, based on the definitions in present claims 26, 28, 29, 30, the specification at page 47, line

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18 (see also the subject matter of claims 31 and 32), and the subject matter at page 46, line 17 of the specification. It is submitted that the change does not introduce new matter, but rather clarifies the scope of the term "additive."

2. There was some discussion concerning the timing of the incorporation of the solution containing an additive (step (c) of claims 17 and 18 and the claims dependent thereon). To clarify this, step (b) was discussed as being a drying step in which there were two drying periods. The first of the drying period is the "constant drying rate period" as now defined in claims 17 and 18 and is as discussed in the REMARKS of the earlier AMENDMENT to which this is a supplement. Similarly, the second period is the "falling drying rate period" which occurs after the "constant drying rate period" in the drying cycle. For claim 17, the solution containing an additive is incorporated after the first drying stage, that is, the constant drying rate period, is completed. Claim 18 has a similar requirement, except that the incorporation of the additive comes not only after the constant drying rate period but before the completion of the falling drying rate period.

The minor amendment to the remaining claims reflect the presence of antecedent basis for certain elements and are not intended to otherwise change the scope of these claims.

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Entry of this SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT and consideration thereof along with the earlier filed AMENDMENT, and a favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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